wise cropped area reported to have been damaged due to Tsunami are as under

Kerala	-	8153 hectares
Tamil Nadu	-	3636 hectares
Andhra Pradesh	-	790 hectares
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	-	11010 hectares

(c) The Ministry of Home Affairs have announced a package of Central assistance termed as 'Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami Affected Areas' involving assistance of Rs. 2731.04 crore, including the assistance for crops damaged, to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and UT of Pondicherry.

For Andaman & Nicobar Islands the Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami affected areas for an amount of Rs. 821.88 crore has been provided which includes Rs. 239.54 crore for rehabilitation of agriculture and reclamation of soils damaged due to Tsunami.

Foodgrains Production

464. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of productivity of major foodgrains in the country as compared to that of developed countries;

(b) the reasons for lesser foodgrains productivity in the country; and

(c) the steps to increase foodgrains productivity in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per the FAO Production Year Book 2002, the details of productivity of major foodgrains in India *vis-a-vis* some of the developed countries of the world for the year 2002 are as follow:

(Productivity in kgs./hectare)

Crop	Country	Productivity
1	2	3
Paddy	World	3916
	India	2914
	USA	7370
	Japan	6582
	France	5526
Wheat	World	2720
	India	2770
	Russian Federation	2257
	USA	2373
	France	7449

1	2	3
Coarse Cereals	World	2929
	India	993
	USA	7255
	France	7416
	Germany	5749
Pulses	World	791
	India	600
	USA	1875
	France	4632
	Canada	1212

(b) and (c) Since about 60 per cent of the net sown area is rain-fed, agricultural production in India is heavily influenced by rainfall. The fluctuations in foodgrains productivity are largely explained by fluctuations in rainfall. With a view to increasing agricultural production and productivity, the Government have identified thrust areas for focused and priority attention, which include irrigation, agricultural credit and marketing infrastructure. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscored and importance of efforts aimed at turning the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to farm households. The other areas highlighted in the Budget include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation, and development/strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.

To increase the productivity of different crops, various schemes like Integrated Crop Development Programme (ICDP)-Coarse Cereals, ICDP-Wheat, ICDP-Rice, etc. had been implemented which have since been subsumed under Macro Management Programme. For improving the productivity of pulses, the Integrated Scheme for Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize (ISOPOM) is being implemented. Under ISOPOM, assistance is provided for purchase of breeder seed, production of foundation seed, production and distribution of certified seed, distribution of minikits, infrastructure development, block demonstrations on improved technology, Polythene Mulch Technology and Integrated Pest Management Technology, distribution of Plant Protection Chemicals, Plant protection equipments,

weedicides, supply of Rhizobium culture/Phosphate Solubilising Bacteria, distribution of gypsum/pyrite/liming/dolomite, distribution of sprinkler sets, farmers' training, staff & contingencies, pipes for carrying water from source to the field, officers training and publicity, etc.

Uncertainty in agricultural production

† 465. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the factors which lead to uncertainty in agri-production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the deadline fixed to do away with these causes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Agricultural production in a country depends on a number of factors such as rainfall, temperature, facilities for irrigation, incidence of pests and diseases, timely application of quality inputs, timely availability of credit at reasonable cost, marketing infrastructure, etc.

(c) and (d) Since about 60 per cent of the net sown area is rain-fed, agricultural production in India is heavily influenced by rainfall. With a view to reducing uncertainty in agriculture and increasing agricultural production, the Government have identified thrust areas for focused and priority attention, which include irrigation, agricultural credit and marketing infrastructure. The Union Budget for 2005-06 has underscored the importance of efforts aimed at turning the focus of commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative banks towards providing credit, especially production credit, to farm households. The other areas highlighted in the Budget include micro irrigation technology comprising drip and sprinkler irrigation and development/strengthening of agricultural marketing infrastructure, grading and standardization.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.